

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CU-02 STR-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2748
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
KFML/AMEMBASSY BONN 914
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, IT, BU
SUBJECT: ITALIAN CSCE CONSULTATIONS WITH BULGARIA

1. ITALIAN EMBASSY SOFIA HAS PROVIDED US (AND OTHER NATO
MISSIONS) WITH RUN-DOWN ON CONSULTATIONS HELD HERE APRIL 14
BETWEEN ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CSCE EXPERT ROBERTO
FRANCESCHI AND HIS BULGARIAN OPPOSITE NUMBER STEFAN STAIKOV
WITH REGARD TO BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

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2. PROCEDURAL ASPECTS. STAIKOV SAID GOB HAS NO FIXED VIEWS
ON PROCEDURES, SAVE ONLY THAT BELGRADE MUST NOT BECOME
"INVESTIGATION" OR "INQUISITION," OR ATTEMPT BY WESTERN
COUNTRIES TO IMPOSE "OUTSIDE MODELS" ON EE. IN THIS CONNECTION,
STAIKOV VIEWED WITH ALARM ATTEMPTS BY CERTAIN CIRCLES IN THE
WEST TO PROMOTE THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE BELGRADE MEETING

INTO A KIND OF COURTROOM. HE ALSO VIEWED WITH DARK SUSPICION A TENDENCY FOR "CERTAIN COUNTRIES" TO TRY TO GAIN "UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES FOR THEMSELVES". SHOULD THESE TENDENCIES BECOME MANIFEST AT BELGRADE, IT WOULD CAST DOUBT ON THE VALUE OF THE EXERCISE AND POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE FOLLOW-ON MEETINGS. IN ANY EVENT, MEETING AT BELGRADE SHOULD BE CONSULTATIVE ONLY, BECAUSE POLITICAL DECISIONS WERE TAKEN AT HELSINKI AND CANNOT BE OVERTURNED OR RE-OPENED. ON THE OTHER HAND, GOB WOULD EXPECT THAT AT BELGRADE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO HOME GOVTS COULD BE DISCUSSED.

3. BREZHNEV ECONOMIC PROPOSALS. ECE IS THE APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR CONSIDERATION OF THESE PROPOSALS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A CONGRESS OF SPECIALISTS AND EXPERTS. GOB EXPECTS ONLY "LIGHT DISCUSSION" AT BELGRADE.

4. BREZHNEV NFU PROPOSAL. GOB EXPECTS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH NO DECISION.

5. OTHER DISARMAMENT TOPICS. YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA MAY AGAIN PUT FORTH "UNREALISTIC" PROPOSALS.

6. CBMS. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OR ELABORATION OF CBMS IS PREMATURE AT THIS TIME. MORE EXPERIENCE OF PRESENT CBMS IS A PRE-CONDITION.

7. MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE AND CONDITIONS FOR INVITATION TO OTHER LITTORAL STATES DO NOT YET EXIST. IT IS IN ANY CASE TOO EARLY TO TAKE ON NEW PROBLEMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD ONLY FURTHER COMPLICATE COMPLEX MATTERS. (NOTE: FRANCESCHI THOUGHT HE DETECTED AN EMBARRASSED QUALITY TO STAIKOV'S PRESENTATION, AS THOUGH GOB FEARED ITS POSITION MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT RELATIONS WITH ITS ARAB FRIENDS. THE ITALIANS, OF COURSE, SHARE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM SHOWN ABOVE.)

8. BALKAN POLITICS. STAIKOV VOLUNTEERED AN EXPOSITION OF GOB POLICIES IN THE BALKANS WHICH, IN FAMILIAR TERMS, EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING COOPERATION ON A BILATERAL BASIS AND THE VIEW THAT DIVERSITIES IN THE REGION WERE TOO GREAT TO ADMIT OF MULTILATEJLISM.

9. GENERAL. ITALIANS CHARACTERIZED MEETINGS AS FRIENDLY THOUGH RATHER FORMAL. STAIKOV SPOKE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FROM WRITTEN NOTES AND THERE WAS LITTLE OR NO GIVE AND TAKE OR FREE DISCUSSION.

10. COMMENT: APPEARS TO US TO BE A STANDARD (INDEED, BY NOW ROUTINIZED) PERFORMANCE. IF THE RUSSIANS DO INTEND TO

PUSH NFU AT BELGRADE, AS RECENT REPORTS OUT OF POLAND SUGGEST,
STAIKOV GAVE NO INDICATION.
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